

REMARKS

Applicants' counsel thanks the Examiner for his careful examination of the application. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13, 15 and 16, and of allowed claim 17. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the invention. No new matter has been entered. Claims 13 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice.

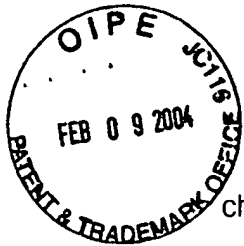
The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 18 and 20 as being anticipated by Pustanyk under 35 USC § 102. These claims all have been amended to recite the cover plate (or exterior wall) has "at least one slot to allow the passage of electromagnetic signals from the sonde, said slot including a filling of non-metallic material." This is the substantive limitation previously found in claim 13 (now canceled) which was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. None of the cited references discloses or suggests this structure as now claimed. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 9, 18 and 20 as now presented are in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 also has been rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Pustanyk. This claim has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15, which was previously indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 14 as now presented also is in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been allowed by the Examiner.


All remaining claims are dependent claims, and therefore are believed to be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now are in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is noted that with the last Office action, the Examiner forwarded a sheet PTO-1449 listing two references previously submitted by the applicant in an information disclosure statement. The first reference was a U.S. patent reference (Comeau, et al.) and the second reference was a European Patent Office document (No. 0 553 908 A2, dated 8/1993). The Examiner initialed the U.S. patent reference, but neglected to initial the European reference. It is respectfully requested the Examiner forward an initialed copy of this 1449 form with his next communication, indicating the European reference has been considered.



If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32237US2.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Steven J. Solomon, Reg. No. 48719

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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